

## **ABSTRACT**

The picture decoding apparatus (1100) decodes a coded stream including a moving picture stream that has pictures of different sizes with reference to decoded pictures. The picture memory (203) includes a memory area for holding the decoded pictures. The picture memory dividing method specification unit (210) divides the memory area of the picture memory (203) into picture areas of a predetermined size. The picture memory control unit (206) sequentially stores all the data of one newly decoded picture in the sequential memory areas which are formed with one or more picture areas of the picture memory (203).